Forest Service

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File Code: 3420 **Date:** February 28, 2008
Route To:

Subject: *Nepytia janetae Post-suppression Follow-up Sampling*

To: Forest Supervisor, Lincoln National Forest

In accordance with the "Environmental Assessment for *Nepytia janetae* Winter Defoliator Spray Project" (Monitoring of Treatment Efficacy and Need for Follow-up, pp. 14-15), Terry Rogers and I returned to the Sacramento Ranger District on February 26, 2008 and conducted a second post-suppression evaluation of five sites within the spray block aerially treated on November 5-6, 2007. This visit was scheduled to provide you with information on whether a second aerial application of *Btk* in March 2008 would be necessary to further suppress the *Nepytia janetae* outbreak. You may recall that our first post-suppression evaluation completed on November 20, 2007 revealed a decline in *Nepytia janetae* larval numbers in three out of the five sites sampled. Our most recent sampling reveals a further decline from those November levels, and all sites sampled within the spray block are now exhibiting nearly undetectable population levels. We used the same sampling method, lower crown branch clipping and beating, as used in October and November of 2007.

Table 1. Results of pre-suppression (October 23-24, 2007), 14-day post-suppression (November 20, 2007) and follow-up (February 26, 2008) *Nepytia janetae* larval sampling.

Average larvae / m^2 foliage sampled			
Site	**Pre-suppression**	**14-day Post-suppression**	**February 2008 Follow-up**
Apache Campground	8.1	3.2	0.3
Dale Ressler	0.9	3.1	0.0
Pines Campground	0.5	12.6	0.3
Sleepygrass Campsites 4 & 5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Sleepygrass Picnic 35 & 36	1.4	0.5	0.0

These results lead us to believe that the outbreak has subsided and the population is now at a level below that which would produce observable defoliation. The population reduction which has taken place since the 14-day post-suppression sampling appears to be the result of natural population regulating mechanisms. Some reddened crowns observed on the ridges to the south of the Sleepygrass picnic area were determined to be damage that most likely occurred from *Nepytia janetae* feeding which took place in September or October, prior to the aerial spraying. Based on these most recent results, I recommend that you take no further suppression action.

Following the within-block sampling, we took a drive along Hwy. 6563 south of the treatment area and looked for new crown discoloration. We paid particular attention to the Sunspot area, which previously had sustained heavy damage, and saw no indication of recent fall or winter feeding activity by *Nepytia janetae*.

Should you have questions or require additional assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (505) 842-3286.

We enjoyed working with you and your staff on the development and implementation of the *Nepytia janetae* project, and wish you the best in your upcoming retirement.

/s/ Debra Allen-Reid
DEBRA ALLEN-REID
New Mexico Zone Leader, Forest Health

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